



Biographical Research Committee Monthly Report
July 1994

Emmett Seery Found

Emmett Seery, a charter member of our Top 20 Most Wanted List, has been found by Dave Hochman. Thus, Dave wins the July *Find of the Month* award. Every year Dave takes a vacation to Florida. He generally goes to the Daytona Beach area, which is not far from the Jensen Beach area where Emmett Seery is last known to have lived.

Two years ago, Dave found information on Seery's family from the 1910 Florida census. They had an index to it which I didn't have. Last year, Dave found Seery's grave, which just stated that he died in 1930. It didn't list a date or place although I knew that Seery did not die in Florida. This year, Dave looked through the newspaper day by day in 1930 looking for an obituary. (Sure beats lying on the beach, doesn't it?) Dave finally located the obituary in the August 9 paper which said that Seery died in Saranac Lake, New York. Saranac Lake had an asylum for people with tuberculosis (See Mathewson, Christy) so that is what I assume he died of. Congratulations to Dave for his fine work, and hopefully next year he'll be able to pack a bathing suit. Replacing Seery on the Top 20 list will be Leonard Bailey, the March 1990 *Mystery of the Month*.

New Members

Please welcome Brian Ten Eyck, 36945 SE Deming, Sandy, Oregon 97055 to the committee. Brian's code number will be T5. Also welcome Derek Carlson, 150 Hanley Road, Golden Valley, Minnesota 55426. Derek's code number will be C3. Derek would also like to know the details of Rube Waddell's death. What caused his tuberculosis? If anyone knows, please get in touch with Derek.

A History Lesson

Once again, we have a situation where a particular location has changed hands and we want to be accurate in the place of birth. We list Al Campanis as being born in Kos, Greece. Kos is an island in the Dodecanese Islands just off the coast of Turkey. After the Ottoman Turk empire fell in 1912, it was occupied by Italy. After many years of contention over it, the island was finally ceded to Greece in 1947. Campanis, of course, was born in 1916. Since it was not really part of any country at that time, the most accurate thing to do is to list his place of birth as Kos, Dodecanese Islands and parenthetically say (now Greece). Thanks to Pete Morris, who obviously paid attention in his history classes.

The Social Security Death Index

Andy McCue sent me an article on a company called Banner Blue Software who sell CD-ROM disks with genealogy information. In the article it states that they have the Social Security Death Index available for \$33. That seems like a pretty reasonable price for such a helpful tool. Unfortunately, my PC is still in the Dark Ages and I don't have a CD-ROM. However, if any of you would like to order it, Banner Blue's number is (510)794-6850. Please let me know if any of you decide to get it.

Last Month's Mystery

Lou Jacobson filled me in on the story of Ed Levy's name. Lou interviewed Levy about 5 years ago and received the following letter from Levy:

"I was born Edward Whitner and was adopted by my step-father Charles Levy. All my baseball career my name was Ed Levy. My step-father died when I was 15 years of age. I met my father Whitner when I was 24 years old while playing

in the Little World Series with the Newark club in Louisville, Kentucky. I was the only child and changed my name back to Whitner in private life and I enjoyed a fine relationship with my father until he died in 1972. However Charles Levy had a great influence in my life and I loved him.

Sincerely,

Ed Levy (Whitner)"

Lou has tried writing him but letters have been returned with no forwarding address. It still seems unclear whether we will find him under the name Levy or Whitner.

Moments of Fame

Lou Jacobson has also experienced some notoriety recently when he was the subject of an amusing story in the recently published *The Quaker Was a Spy* by Nicholas Dawidoff. (Reviewed by me in the *Cooperstown Review of Books*). This is an excellent biography of Moe Berg and Lou is mentioned as meeting his girlfriend by telling her stories about Moe Berg.

It's funny but for years I tried the same approach by telling my dates stories about Matthew Porter. For some reason I never saw any of them again. However, my present girlfriend, Linda, has promised to stay with me until I find him. It looks like she'll be around for awhile.

First Out

1950 - Herb Conyers	09/16/1964
1951 - Eddie Gaedel	06/18/1961
1952 - Herb Gorman	04/05/1953
1953 - Dave Jolly	05/27/1963
1954 - Harry Agganis	06/27/1955
1955 - Tom Gastall	09/20/1956
1956 - Charles Peete	11/27/1956
1957 - Stan Pitula	08/15/1965
1958 - Fritz Brickell	10/15/1965
1959 - Jim Umbricht	04/08/1964

Birthday List

There are two nonagenarians celebrating birthdays in August, including Edward Gill, our second-oldest living player. Be sure to send a card.

August 6	Jim Turner	91
August 7	Edward Gill	99

Hodson's Choice

George S. Hodson pitched for Boston in 1894 and Philadelphia in 1895. In analyzing his minor league career, it was discovered that he pitched in Hartford, Connecticut as well as several teams in the California League. I found Hodson listed in the 1900 Connecticut census as being born in June of 1870 in Pennsylvania and living with his wife, Nellie, and step-daughter, Mary Smith.

Hodson then shows up in the California census in 1910 and 1920. He is now single and making his living as a fruit peddler in San Rafael. I thought it would then be easy to locate his death in the California death index; however, he does not appear there, and if he left California, I have no idea where he went. This is our *Mystery of the Month* for July so let's see if we can track him down.

The Scoreboard

	IN	OUT	PCT
Total Complete Names	14079	74	99.477
Total Complete Births	13386	767	94.581
Total Complete Deaths	7027	479	49.650
Total Assumed Alive	6647		46.965
Total Bats	12788	1261	91.024
Total Throws	13038	1011	92.804
Total Heights	13011	1038	92.612
Total Weights	12942	1107	92.120
Total Debut Dates	14153	0	100.000
Total Questionnaires	9971	4182	70.452
Total Completion			92.0757

New Monthly Data

Questionnaires Received:

None

New Information Received:

1889 Bates, John W.	Name: John <u>William</u> Bates	(S5)
	B: <u>May 28 1868</u>	
	<u>Ohio</u>	
	D: <u>Oakland, California</u>	
1960 Blemker, Ray	D: <u>Feb 15 1994</u>	(S3)
1892 Camp, Winfield Scott	TR	(M4)
1943 Campanis, Alexander Sebastian	B: <u>Kos, Dodecanese Islands</u>	(M4)
1892 Connors, Jeremiah	B: <u>Cleveland, Ohio</u>	(B3)
1924 DeViveiros, Bernard John	D: <u>Jul 5 1994</u>	(C1)
	<u>Oakland, California</u>	
1889 Fanning, John Jacob	TR	(M4)
1887 Geiss, Emil August	Height: <u>5-11</u> Weight: <u>170</u>	(B3)
1884 Graham, Bernard W.	BL	(B3)
1905 Hogg, William W.	Name: William <u>Johnston</u> Hogg	(M4)
	B: <u>Sep 11 1881</u>	
	<u>Port Huron, Michigan</u>	
1940 Hudson, Sidney Charles	B: <u>Jan 3 1915</u>	(C1)
1887 Keating, Robert M.	Weight: <u>190</u>	(B3)
1976 Keener, Joseph Donald	Is Deceased	(S3)
1884 Knowles, James	B: <u>Toronto, Ontario</u>	(R1)
1940 Kolloway, Donald Martin	D: <u>Jun 30 1994</u>	(S3)
	<u>Blue Island, Illinois</u>	
1901 Murphy, Francis Patrick	B: <u>Apr 16 1875</u>	(D7)
1930 Reese, James Herman	D: <u>Jul 13 1994</u>	(C1)
	<u>Santa Ana, California</u>	
1884 Seery, John Emmett	D: <u>Aug 8 1930</u>	(H0)
	<u>Saranac Lake, New York</u>	
1890 Siefke, Frederick Edwin	Height: <u>5-11</u> Weight: <u>168</u>	(B3)
1923 Solomon, Morris Hirsch	Name: <u>Mose</u> Hirsch Solomon	(J2)
1913 Stock, Milton Joseph	D: <u>Fairhope, Alabama</u>	(B6)
1934 Strange, Alan Cochrane	D: <u>Jun 27 1994</u>	(W2)
	<u>Seattle, Washington</u>	
1919 Styles, William Graves	D: <u>Huntsville, Alabama</u>	(B6)
1965 Tovar, Cesar Leonardo	D: <u>Jul 14 1994</u>	(C1)
	<u>Caracas, Venezuela</u>	
1953 Wilhelm, Charles Ernest	D: <u>Oct 20 1992</u>	(S3)
1887 Wright, William H.	Name: William <u>Hiram</u> Wright	(B3)